

# AREA 23

Approved  
Feb 2004

**A** Oaker Bank Road and shelter belt tree planting at Killinghall Moor.



## Saltergate Valley Grassland

### Description

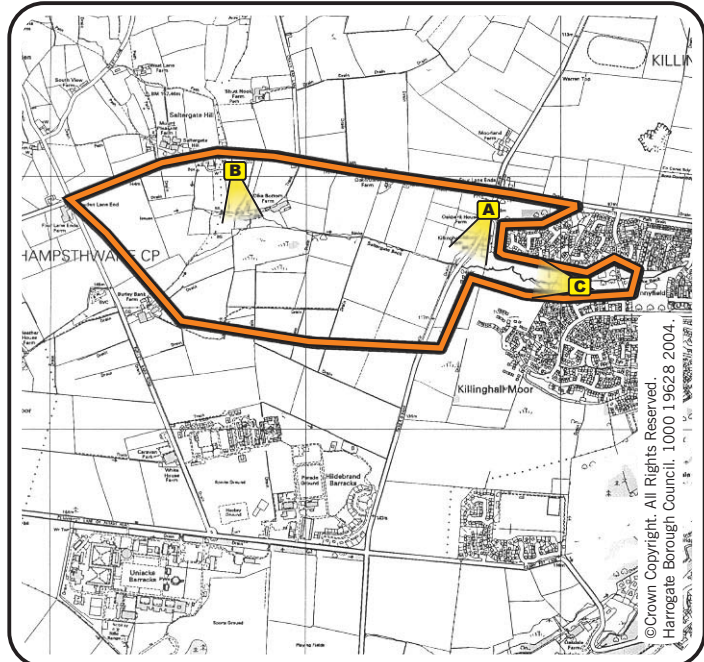
This small character area covering just 1km<sup>2</sup> is moderate scale, valley landform of Saltergate Beck at the urban edge of Harrogate adjacent to Jennyfields.

The area is next to a diverse mix of undistinguished modern housing that brings discord to its balanced landscape of tended grassland fields managed for grazing stock.

The built form and sloping topography channel and enclose views as yet unaffected by a new band of planting that will provide a screen in the future.

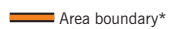
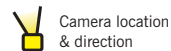
Elsewhere, tree cover is moderate and remnants of hawthorn hedges have considerable impact as does the wooded corridor of Saltergate Beck in the valley bottom.

In addition to Jennyfields other detractors include Oaker Bank road which is busy and noisy. These elements of discord bring chaos to the valley landscape.



### HARROGATE DISTRICT Landscape Character Assessment

Location in Harrogate District

-  Area boundary\*
-  Camera location & direction





Not to Scale





\* NB Due to the nature of landform, surface treatment and soil/geology composition Character area boundaries cannot be delineated precisely and should be considered "transitional".

### Key Characteristics





#### Geology, soils and drainage

-  Millstone grit solid geology.
-  Poorly-drained surface water gley soils.


#### Landform and drainage pattern


-  Small scale valley landform 90m AOD in the valley bottom to 150m AOD at the valley rim.
-  Saltergate beck flows eastwards along the valley bottom plus 1 or 2 contributing gills.


#### Land use, fields, boundaries, trees and wildlife

-  Medium sized fields managed as improved and rough grassland for livestock.
-  Hawthorn hedgerow remnants have been replaced by walls or reinforced with post and wire fencing.
-  A new plantation screening Jennyfields housing estate will eventually soften the urban edge.
-  Few individual mature trees scattered along field boundaries with lots along the Beck corridor.

#### Settlement, built environment and communications

-  Main settlement is Jennyfields housing estate on the urban edge of west Harrogate plus one or two farmsteads scattered elsewhere in the valley.

-  The main building materials are the yellow brick and red tiles of Jennyfields plus the Magnesian limestone of Killinghall Moor Farm with gritstone and profiled metal sheet roofed outbuildings.

-  Jennyfields is built on a disused quarry site.



**B** South from the Nelson pub car park.



**C** The scrubland which encroaches into Killinghall Moor.

## Sensitivities & Pressures

- This small-scale valley at the urban edge of Harrogate is sensitive to loss of tree cover and new development as it is important to the rural setting of Jennyfields. Impact of the urban edge on the rural character of this area is significant.
- Development pressure for housing in the countryside due to the proximity of Harrogate and good local road network.
- The B6161 effectively cuts off Harrogate from the countryside at this point.
- Light pollution in this area is considerable.
- Management of the area east of the B6161 is important and the area is under pressure from urban influences such as rubbish dumping and pollution.

## Guidelines

**Aim: To maintain the small scale wooded valley character of this area on the urban edge of Harrogate.**

- Ensure appropriate management of woodland planting to the edge of Harrogate east of the B6161 and the management of woodland and trees within the valley.
- Restrict further development in this area that would result in urban sprawl.
- Encourage the management of the grassland in the valley for wildlife.

**Aim: To integrate the urban edge and development.**

- Further planting beyond the B6161 could help to link development with the countryside.
- Public footpath links into the countryside could be improved.
- The green corridor of Saltergate Beck as it extends into Jennyfields is a vital link with the countryside and requires maintenance. Liaise with Harrogate Council's Department of Leisure and Amenity Services and Technical Services to ensure appropriate management both for recreation and wildlife.